GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1602
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
EFFECT OF ECONOMIC REFORMS ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION
SUKENDER REDDY GUTHA

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any survey to assess the effect of economic reforms on poverty alleviation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed by the Government to ensure benefits of reforms reaches the poorest of the poor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN TH MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a): No specific survey has been done for the purpose. But the estimates worked out by Planning Commission on the basis of 55th Round of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) shows that poverty ratio for 1999-2000 was 26.10 percent (based on a 30-day recall period) and 23.33 percent (based on a 7-day recall period) for the country as a whole. Earlier poverty ration estimated in 1993-94 was 35.97 (based on 30-day recall period) for the country as a whole.

(b): Question does not arise.

(c): A combination of high growth and pro-poor policies has been adopted in the Ninth Plan in order to ensue that the benefit of reforms reaches the poorest of the poor. The specific objective of the Ninth Plan inter-alia are:

(i) Priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty;

(ii) Accelerating the growth rate of the economy with stable prices;

(iii) Ensuring food and nutritional security for all, particularly the vulnerable sections of society;

(iv) Providing the basic minimum services of safe drinking water, primary health care facilities universal primary education, shelter and connectivity to all in a time bound manner.